ANS Correspondence

Dickinson, Robert L., Dr.

1925-1929

DR. ROBT. L. DICKINSON
438 West 116th Street
New York City

2 June 1925.

To the Secretary,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway & 156th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Sir:

In the war, one was able - though too late and with difficulty,- to secure from the Army the appointment of a group of sculptors (Herbert Adams, Paul Manship, etc.) as official advisors on war medals. Why, in peace, may we not use good designs for badges for big meetings and educate the public numismatically. For example, why not make lapel buttons worthy of collection?

Do you care to stir in particular instances?

The two largest medical meetings are those of The American Medical Association which gathers 6000 in May and of the American College of Surgeons which collects some 4000 in October. Each, in the matter of badges, is an offender against good design. Yet the profession has in it men interested in art - who would attempt to arouse interest in the expenditure of a bit more money for better buttons. We might even descend to starting a rivalry between the medical and surigcal branches of the profession on this little matter.

Very truly yours,

Robt L. Dickinson

RLD CD

List who might be interested

Dr. Lewis S. Pilcher, 145 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Prof. Frederick Whiting, 19 West 47th St., New York City, N.Y.
Dr. Thomas Cullen, Prof. of Gyn., Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Md.
Dr. Whitridge Williams, Prof. of Obst., Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Md.
Dr. Wendell Phillips, 30 E. 58th St., New York City, N.Y.(President of the A.M.A. this year)
Dr. Charles L. Dana, 53 W. 53rd St., New York City, NY

Have you the McDowell medal of the American Gynecological Society, 1904 and the Lewis S. Pilcher medal? If not mine are at yr. service.

June 3, 1925

Dr. Robert L. Dickinson
438 West 116 Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Dickinson:

Your letter is certainly a stimulating one. We are always glad to do anything we can to improve the quality of medals and in this particular case I should be glad to act on any suggestion which you may make.

As you know, such lapel badges as are used at conventions are generally eleventh hour perpetrations of a committee with little interest in the artistic quality of the product. It is on this element of time that the blame must be placed, I am convinced, because as you intimate, there must be a number of physicians and surgeons who would gladly bear the expense of something which could be properly called good, or even fine. The item of expense, however, is an important one and I am wondering if you can refer me to the chairman of your last committee so that I may learn the expenditure that is customary for this purpose. I may say that our contact with the makers of these badges has shown a desire on their part to cooperate in obtaining better designs but they are often so limited by what is to be spent for the purpose that they can hardly be blamed for having recourse to journeyman workmanship.

Your offer to place your copies of the McDowell Medal and of the Louis S. Pilcher Medal at our service we appreciate very much indeed. I think we have a copy of the Pilcher Medal but not of the other, but there is always an advantage in being able to show both the obverse and reverse. If you care to send them along, we shall be very glad indeed to have them.

Very respectfully yours

SPN C

Secretary

DR. ROBT. L. DICKINSON
438 West 116th Street
New York City

4 June 1925.

Mr. Sydney P. Poe, Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway & 156th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Poe:

In answer to your letter of June 3rd, Dr. Dickinson wishes me to inform you that he has sent you under separate cover the Mc Dowell Medal.

Very truly yours,

Celia Dessauer
Secretary.

June 6, 1925

Dr. Robert L. Dickinson
438 West 116 Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Dickinson:

We received yesterday the copy of the McDowell Medal which you have so generously presented.

I had not seen it before and we are very glad indeed to have it to add to our collection.

It would give me great pleasure to welcome you here sometime at your convenience and to show you some of our things not ordinarily on exhibition.

Very cordially yours

SPN C

Secretary

June 13, 1925

Dr. R. L. Dickinson
438 West 116 Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Dickinson:

This morning a copy of the Pilcher Medal reached my hands. Thank you very much indeed.

We have been making a special point of trying to obtain as many as possible of just such medals as this and few people realize their importance in stimulating others to show like taste when the question of a commemorative or award medal is being considered.

Very respectfully yours

SPM C

Secretary

DR. ROBT. L. DICKINSON
438 West 116th Street
New York City

7 Nov 29

American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 156th Street
Newyork :—

Gentlemen: Will you kindly give me an estimate on preparing and striking a medal, a head of the most striking profile I have found in my studies for the Hippocrates for the Seal of the Academy of Medicine.

Edmund B. Wilson of the Department of Biology at Columbia is the man whose scholars should be appealed to. The back could be simple. You spoke of talented younger men as well as famous ones.

Yours sincerely

Robt L. Dickinson

Please let me have a couple of circulars about membership & officers, or a report.

12th March, 1929

Dr. Robert L. Dickinson,
New York City

Dear Dr. Dickinson:

In response to your letter of March 7th, I take pleasure in enclosing two application cards for Associate membership in the American Numismatic Society.

As to the cost of a medal, it is difficult to generalize: first, because this cost dpends on the size of the dies needed, and, secondly, the factor of the artist's fee is also a varying one. For dies 2½ inches in diameter (the customary size of many medals), the cost would be $125 each, or somewhat more than this if the relief is excessive, or if the artist's model is so large as to require a double reduction. If the design is a simple one, as would be the case for the medal you have in mind, sculptors will sometimes undertake it at a figure under what they are accustomed to receive for medal designs. Usually, however, the best artists receive from $1,000 to $1,500 for obverse and reverse designs, although some of them include the cost of the dies in this figure. Younger sculptors would accept a commission for less - say from $500 to $800, assuming that the reverse is simple. If you could count on a subscription for, roughly, 100 copies in silver and 200 in bronze, at $10 for the silver and $5 for the bronze, you can come close to paying for the entire cost of the medal.

If this does not give you all the information you desire, please feel free to raise further questions.

Very truly yours,

Secretary